



Epiphany
WEEKEND

January 7-8, 2023

TRADITIONAL PRAISE WORSHIP OUTLINE

Epiphany | January 8, 2023

Service Elements taken from: Divine Service, Setting 4, Pew Hymnal (LSB) p. 203
For your convenience, all hymn lyrics will also be displayed on the screens at the front of the Sanctuary.

PRELUDE

OPENING HYMN: *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

LSB #367

SERVICE OF THE WORD

LSB p. 203

Confession/Gloria

LSB p. 203-204

Prayer of the Day

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 61:10

Worship Bible p. 620

Epistle Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12

Worship Bible p. 977

Responsory

Screen

Holy Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

Worship Bible p. 807

NICENE CREED

(On Screen)

HYMN OF THE DAY: *The First Noel*

(On Screen)

MESSAGE

Pastor Marc Schwichtenberg

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH/LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: *As With Gladness Men Of Old*

LSB #397

IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT THE LORD'S SUPPER:

The Bible teaches that along with the bread and wine of Holy Communion we also receive the true body and blood of our Savior. Jesus' own words, "this is my body" and "this is my blood for the forgiveness of sins" reveal His Real Presence in the sacrament (Luke 22, 1 Cor. 10:15-16). The Bible also teaches (1 Cor. 11:23-32) the Lord's Supper, properly received brings great blessings, but improperly received without understanding can actually incur God's judgment. If you are a baptized Christian who has been instructed in the Biblical teaching of communion, please feel free to commune today. If you have any questions, please first speak to a pastor.

As you come forward, gluten free wafers are available by request, as well as individual cup choice of wine or lighter colored non-alcoholic grape juice (located in the center of the trays). Common cup is also offered during Traditional Praise services at the altar only.

The Lord's Supper is celebrated in Traditional Praise on the first, third, and fifth weekends of the month; and in Modern Praise on the second and fourth weekends of the month.

THE WEEKLY CONNECTION

ONE IN JESUS... REACHING MANY!

Week of January 8, 2023

WORSHIP CELEBRATION



EPHIPHANY WEEKEND

Throughout Jesus' earthly ministry, people curious about who He was were drawn to Him. When we have moved from our Christmas celebrations where shepherds came and found Him in a manger, in the New Year we see others who were told many centuries before that a star would herald the birth of a new king. They too came, found, and worshipped. Many of us know friends & family who are still curious about Jesus.

May the message we share this weekend in our world of uncertainty be as constant as it has been throughout the ages... Jesus has come for all people, to bring forgiveness, hope, and life.

HOLY BAPTISM

This weekend we celebrate two baptisms! At the 9:30 AM Traditional Praise service we celebrate the baptism of Carter William David Semrau, son of Elizabeth & Brandon. At the 11:00 AM Traditional Praise service we celebrate the baptism of Lacey Jane Buckenberger, daughter of Candace and David. May God richly bless Carter, Lacey and their families!



BIBLICAL DISCOVERY

GET INTO THE WORD THIS WINTER | Classes start January 8 (today!)

It's a New Year and with it come many new opportunities at St. John to grow in your faith through God's Word! Bible study groups start meeting this week! Check out the new Get Into the Word Bible study listing, available in print and on our website! **Please note that not all classes start this week; please see individual class listings for more details.**



ARE YOU READY TO MAKE ST. JOHN YOUR HOME? | Class starts January 30

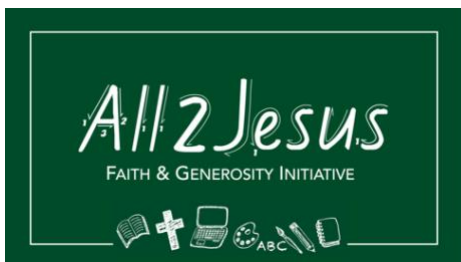
Have you or someone you know been searching for an opportunity to learn or rediscover what real faith in Jesus is all about in a non-threatening environment where your real questions can be answered? Maybe you're new to St. John School or maybe you have been worshiping as a guest and finally feel led to make St. John your official church home. Whether transferring from another church or brand new to the Christian faith, The ONE Class is for you...and now is the time! Come join Pastor Marc, Pastor Steve, and Pastor Jon on an 8-week,

action-packed journey through God's Word as they help you discover what Christian Lutheran faith is all about! They'll also introduce you to our St. John mission and vision!

The classes will meet Monday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. Upon completion of the series participants will be welcomed to prayerfully consider official membership as part of the St. John family. Look for an email and more information on our website, including a link to register for the class. If you have any questions, contact the pastoral office at church@stjohnrochester.org or 248-402-8020. We hope you can join us!



SHARED LIFE



IMPORTANT ALL2JESUS UPDATE

As we've been reminded throughout the weeks of the All2Jesus Faith & Generosity Initiative, the Lord has truly given each of us a divine opportunity to fully engage in growing in our faith and respond boldly in generosity to make an eternal difference in His name by expanding our school ministry to reach more and more children and families!

So far almost 400 households have responded for a pledged commitment of more than \$4.2 million, over the next two years! This amount is above and beyond ongoing regular giving!! We are humbled and grateful to all of those who have responded in faith and generosity to make an eternal impact! We are truly blessed!

Meanwhile, our Building Expansion Team is finalizing construction bids on the proposed project to bring final costs and recommendations back for congregation approval. Praise the Lord, so far these costs have been coming in more favorably than expected





A Congregational Forum will be held on January 11 at 7:00 PM to discuss plans and costs, and a Special Congregation Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29 at 12:30 PM seeking final approval. Please make plans to attend these important gatherings. In the meantime, let's all continue to pray for the Lord's leading as we walk together seeking His will in these important and exciting days!

KEEP PRAYING FOR OUR HOLY LAND TOUR GROUP!

Pastor Jon and Steve Wilson are currently leading a group of 50 individuals from our St. John family touring the Holy Land for two weeks! Please pray for their safety as well as the Lord to bless each of them through this life-impacting experience of walking in the steps of Jesus!



ESTHER CIRCLE | Thursday, January 12 at 1:00 PM

The devotion for this meeting will focus on Lesson 2, days 1-3 of "Chosen." The class will meet in Mary Martha (Rm. 145 on the lower level). If you would like more information or have questions, please contact Ruth Leucht.



POSITION OPENING | TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT ASSOCIATE

St. John is accepting applications for a Technology Support Associate to support the mission of St. John Lutheran Church & School: *One in Jesus... Reaching Many*, by proactively managing and maintaining the technology on campus. This individual is responsible for managing the IT systems, network, hardware, and software utilized by St. John, including but not limited to staff and student devices, software, workspace platforms, promethium boards, printers, copiers, and servers. If interested, please email your resume to Steve Gauss at

sgauss@stjohnrochester.org.

CALL PROCESS | MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER

As we prepare for the important call process for a middle school teacher, more specifically a sixth-grade teacher, the congregation is invited to submit recommendations for candidates to be considered, along with recommendations from our LCMS Michigan District and the Concordia University System. Qualified candidates for this position must have a bachelor's degree, a love for Jesus our Savior, a love for children, and a strong knowledge in the subjects of science and reading. Recommendation forms and a sample job description are available at the school office. All recommendations must be received by January 15.



How can we help?



HOW CAN WE HELP?

Are you walking through a desert time of life? Are you lonely, grieving, worried, recently divorced, out of work, behind on bills, needing groceries, other necessities, or counseling? You don't have to journey through this difficult time alone. St. John has ministries, support, assistance funds, and references available for you. For more information and to learn more about how we can care for you, simply reach out to one of our pastors at 248-402-8020 or church@stjohnrochester.org. All requests are confidential.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL | Sundays at 9:30 AM - Sunday School does not meet today, January 8.

Sunday School is offered weekly at 9:30 AM in the school classrooms. All children ages 3 (toilet trained) through 6th grade are welcome to attend. No registration is required and there are no attendance requirements. We look forward to seeing your children and sharing with them the love of Jesus!

SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome back to school! Classes resume on Monday, January 9. We pray that students, families, and staff had a restful and enjoyable break!

Winter sports are underway, with Girl's 7th & 8th grade basketball, Boys 7th&8th grade basketball and Girl's 5th – 8th grade Cheerleading. Support the Girls A Basketball team this Friday and Saturday, January 13 and 14 at the Lutheran Northwest Girls basketball tournament. Go Eagles!



Enrollment for 2023-2024: You are invited to attend upcoming enrollment events and to share the word with family and friends! Enrollment materials will be available at each of the following events:

- Kindergarten Preview| This Thursday, January 12, 6:30 – 7:30 PM: Hear from our Kindergarten teachers about our curriculum and objectives and learn about a day in Kindergarten. Following an informative presentation, there will be an opportunity to visit the Kindergarten classrooms. This evening is for parents only.

- Preschool & Young 5's Preview | Tuesday, January 17, 6:30 – 7:30 PM: Our Preschool team will share about our Preschool curriculum, objectives and session options, followed by the opportunity to visit the Preschool & Young 5's classrooms. This evening is for parents only.
- School Open House | Sunday, January 22, 12:00 – 1:30 PM: Visit the classrooms, meet the teachers and learn about our Preschool to 8th grade. This is for the whole family.

Current school student re-enrollment as well as Congregation early enrollment is January 17 – 27. Open Enrollment begins on February 1 with any remaining space. For more information visit stjohnrochester.org/school or contact Beth Dameron, Director of Admissions at 248-402-8012 or bdameron@stjohnrochester.org.

LIGHTHOUSE MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY | Grades 6-8

Lighthouse is a place where Middle School students can come and feel safe and at home. It is also a place for students to bring their friends to share Jesus. Our activities include students in grades 6-8, and all are welcome! Lighthouse meetings are on Sundays between 6:00 and 8:00 PM. For more information, please contact Steve Wilson, Director of Child and Family Ministry, at 248-402-8006 or swilson@stjohnrochester.org.



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY | Grades 9-12

High School is a defining part of a person's life. Students begin to really settle into their beliefs about the world, God, their purpose, etc. During this influential time, we want students to be surrounded by people who know and love Jesus. We also give them the skills and the support groups they need to make wise decisions at this critical time in their lives.

The High School Youth usually meet on Sundays between 6:00 and 8:00 PM, in the Youth Room or offsite. All are welcome to join in the fun and fellowship! For more information, please contact our Director of High School Youth Ministry, Melissa Hammett, at 248-402-8008 or mhammett@stjohnrochester.org.



SACRIFICIAL GENEROSITY

FINANCIAL UPDATES | St. John's fiscal year is 7/1/22 through 6/30/23

“We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing!” 2 Thessalonians 1:3

GENERAL MISSION & MINISTRY OFFERINGS (as of 12/18/2022)

Offerings for week ending December 11	\$ 58,702
Y.T.D. Budgeted Offerings:	\$1,340,122
Y.T.D. Actual Offerings:	<u>\$1,236,160</u>
Y.T.D. Variance to Budget:	\$(103,961)
Budget to Actual for the week of December 18	62%
Year-to-Date Offering Budget to Actual	92%



GENERAL MISSION & MINISTRY OFFERINGS (as of 12/25/2022)

Offerings for week ending December 11	\$ 80,354
Y.T.D. Budgeted Offerings:	\$ \$1,480,385
Y.T.D. Actual Offerings:	<u>\$ \$1,385,219</u>
Y.T.D. Variance to Budget:	\$(95,165)
Budget to Actual for the week of December 25	175%
Year-to-Date Offering Budget to Actual	93%

GENERAL MISSION & MINISTRY OFFERINGS (as of 01/01/2023)

Offerings for week ending January 1	\$ 72,933
Y.T.D. Budgeted Offerings:	\$ 1,245,742
Y.T.D. Actual Offerings:	<u>\$ 1,177,458</u>
Y.T.D. Variance to Budget:	\$(68,284)

(St. John's fiscal year is 7/1/22 through 6/30/23.)

Budget to Actual for the week of January 1	77%
Year-to-Date Offering Budget to Actual	94%

HAT, SCARF, MITTEN, AND GLOVE COLLECTION | December 21 – January 15

Join us in helping our mission partners, Hope Warming Center, Family of God, St. Paul Lutheran Pontiac, and Rochester Area Neighborhood House, by donating winter items for those in need. Collections will take place December 21 through January 15. Please place donations in the gift boxes in the Atrium or in the collection bins in the church lobby. With cold weather now upon us, let's fill up the boxes with new warm items to bless others this winter!



COMPASSIONATE SERVICE

OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE | St. Paul Lutheran Church food and clothing pantries

We are seeking volunteers to join us in serving at St. Paul Lutheran Church food and clothing pantries for the months of January, February, and March. The pantries are open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:45 – 3:00 PM. We will be packaging meals, serving groceries to those in need, and helping fill clothing needs. If you are able to help, please contact Jennie Eller, Director of Mission Mobilization at Jeller@stjohnrochester.org.

CONSTANT PRAYER

WE WOULD LOVE TO PRAY FOR WHATEVER IS ON YOUR HEART

To submit a prayer request, please email it to prayer@stjohnrochester.org at any time or click on one of the prayer request links on our Online Worship Resources webpage. These requests are received by our pastors and are passed along (or kept confidential when requested) to our prayer warriors and are also included in our weekend worship.



Healing & Peace: Dave Ehlen – hospitalized from seizure / Lorraine Hayes – recovering from infection and surgery / Lindsay Papke – recovering from surgery & thanksgiving for prayers answered

Bereavement: – *For the family & friends of:* Carole James

Strength & Guidance: Continued prayers over the people traveling to Israel from St. John and other parishes

All2Jesus: (member prayer) – *“May we as a body of believers agree in Jesus to allow more of our community to learn of Him and be involved in their children’s education. May we push forward with a plan and God provided resources, that will allow the future to flourish through prayer and generous, heart-felt, giving.”*

Thanksgiving: Baptisms of: Carter William David Semrau - son of Elizabeth & Brandon / Lacey Jane Buckenberger - daughter of Candace and David / Birth of Elijah William Wellhousen - grandson of Michael and Suzette Wellhousen

ON GOING:

Long-Term Healing & Recovery: Rob Plewa / John Kampsen / Debra Jakovich / John / Amy Barrett (sister of Brian Nowakowski) / George Jankovich / Gerald Walters (brother of Pam Peck) – kidney cancer / Ryan Jankovich / Audrey McCatty – GBS (syndrome) / Jim Campbell – blind / Leanne Stevens / David Jakovich – broken bones from a fall / Dave Parker – home hospice

Church-Work Students: Abby Schwichtenberg / Mackensi Wilson / Joy Craig / Ethan Dodson / Dominic Stevens

Pregnancy: Jessica Prost / Amanda

Those in Military Service: Mark Anderson / Aaron Byers / Devin Deck / Tyler Doebler / Troy Glover / Alex Holzke / Earle IV Leighton / Alex Lindsay / Erich Mammen / Matthew Neumeyer / John Paulson / Michael Pesamoska / Christian Petty / AJ Sampson / Jon Taykowski / Jonah Toy / Brad Ziegler / Kayla Pfund / Tim Pfund / Bryan Mullins / Tyler Wetzel / Joey Prokes / Jack Sinko / Stephen Rusanchin / Courtney Sharbaugh / Paul Batt / Victor Martin / Gabe Couturier / David Lyons / Austin Taylor

Home Bound or Nursing Home Residents: Gloria Trudeau / Frances Schuessler / Roy Juhl / Lucille Hagemann / Linda Madson / Marlene Randall / Jerry Bantin / Mitzie Garnett / Kathy Bentley



Traditional Praise: Sundays at 8:00 AM | 9:30 AM | 11:00 AM (Online at 8:00AM)

Modern Praise: Saturdays at 5:00 PM | Sundays @ 10:45 AM (Online at 10:45AM)

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